abolition of the Drug Price Control Order, its control over the drug industry might be finished and prices of all medicines would go up, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 5th March, 2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) There is no classification of drugs as life saving or otherwise either in the Drug Policy or in the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995. The total value of drugs & medicines imported during each of the last three years is as below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Item/Year	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
Import of Medicinal & Pharmaceutical products	144711.68	161519.91	150230.30

Source : Foreign Trade Statistics of India, March 2000, DGCIS, Ministry of Commerce. Import of drugs is not monitored company-wise.

(c) The Drug Policy is directed towards ensuring abundant availability of drugs at reasonable prices. In this direction, in 1999 those drugs, which were exclusively reserved for public sector undertakings have been de-reserved. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the Pharmaceutical Sector has been liberalized by permitting upto 74% FDI under the automatic route.

(d) There is no proposal with the Government to dismantle the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995.

Participation of private sector in the production of urea

†3019. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government have prescribed some guidelines for participation of private sector in the production of urea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) to what extent Government have succeeded to attract participation of private sector in this regard; and

(d) whether their financial structure has been assessed in this regard; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) As per the Industrial Policy (Resolution) dated 24th July 1991, no licence is normally required for setting up/expansion of fertilizer plants. Entrepreneurs are free to set up fertilizer projects anywhere in the country subject to environmental clearance.

(c) The share of private sector was 89.48 lakh MT out of the total urea production of 198.30 lakh MT during the year 1999-2000.

(d) The financial structure of urea manufacturing plants, including the private sector plants, is assessed by the Government for fixation of Retention Price under the Retention Price-cum-Subsidy Scheme.

Tests on Drugs

3020. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:
PROF. A LAKSHMISAGAR:

Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tests have been recently carried out on certain commonly used drugs, used for cough and cold, to know the level of risk in the use of these drugs containing certain chemicals;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c)